Moreover, the Government, announced a package for the Khadi and Village Industries sector on 14.05.2001. The main features of this package consist of a Rebate Policy for five years, option of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to the Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development etc.

The Government has also decided to continue the REGP programme druing 10th Plan period also and Rs. 1250 crores has been proposed to be allocated during 10th Plan period for this scheme.

Development of coir industry in Maharashtra

4506. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for promotion and development of coir industry in the country particularly in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): The Coir Board has been implementing various programmes for the sustainable development of coir industry such as Research and Development, Quality Improvement, Human Resource Development, Promotion of Markets for coir products both in domestic and export sectors and welfare support.

A techno-economic feasibility study for the development of coir industry was conducted by the Coir Board in two leading coconut growing districts of Maharashtra namely Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri. Based on the study an action-plan has been suggested to the State Government of Maharashtra for the development of coir industry in Sindhudurg district.

Infrastructure for Agro and Rural Industries

4507. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of fruits and vegetables that are processed in the rural industries;

(b) the percentage of fruits and vegetables that are wasted because of lack of the processing facilities;

(c) the infrastructure Government have granted to enhance the agro and rural industries;

(d) the percentage of finance given to agro and rural industries *vis-a-vis* in the urban sector; and

(e) the number of people employed in the agro and rural industries in the country during the last three years State-wise and Year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) The data regarding percentage of fruits and vegetables being processed and wasted in the country are not maintained centrally by the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries or by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

(c) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) throughout the country for setting up agro and rural industries. Under this scheme, the KVIC provides margin money assistance at the rate of 25% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and for the project above Rs. 10 lakhs and upto Rs. 25 lakhs, rate of margin money is 25% of Rs. 10 lakhs plus 10% on remaining cost of the project. In the case of SC/ST/OBC/Women/Physically Handicapped/ Ex-Servicemen and Minority Community beneficiary/institution and for hill border and tribal areas, North Eastern Region, Sikkim, Andaman & Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, the margin money grant is 30% of the project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs but above this amount and upto Rs. 25 lakhs it is 10% of the remaining cost of the project. Under this scheme, the beneficiary is required to contribute a minimum 10% of the project cost. In case of SC/ST and other weaker sections, beneficiary's contribution is only 5% of the project cost. This scheme is being implemented through Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks etc.

(d) During 2000-01, 0.22% of the public sector outlay was given to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for the development of agro and rural industries.

(e) The number of employment generated under the Khadi and Village Industries (KVI) sector for the last three years is attached as Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of employment generated under KVI sector during 1998—2001

(Employment in Lakh persons)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.59	3.47	3.47
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	*	*	0.00
3.	Assam	1.25	1.21	1.15
4.	Bihar	3.80	3.26	2.84
5.	Goa	0.05	0.07	0.09
6.	Gujarat	1.01	0.96	0.95
7.	Haryana	0.91	0.90	0.86
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.83	0.82	0.90
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.23	1.08	1.13
10.	Karnataka	2.42	2.12	2.12
11.	Kerala	2.08	2.04	2.05
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1.29	1.45	1.69
13.	Maharashtra	4.65	5.04	5.23
14.	Manipur	0.42	0.54	0.57
15.	Meghalaya	0.11	0.18	0.21
16.	Mizoram	0.15	0.13	0.17
17.	Nagaland	0.19	0.20	0.23
18.	Orissa	1.98	1.71	1.85
19.	Punjab	1.73	1.75	1.57
20.	Rajasthan	4.33	4.38	4.55
21.	Sikkim	0.06	0.04	0.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	11.16	11.04	11.20
23.	Tripura	0.23	0.24	0.27
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10.51	12.00	11.80
25.	West Bengal	4.05	4.26	4.42

(Employment in Lakh persons)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	1998-9	1999-2000	2000-2001
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	*	*	0.13
27.	Chandigarh	0.03	0.11	0.13
28.	Dadra Nagar Haveli	*	*	0.00
29.	Daman & Diu	*	*	0.00
30.	Delhi	0.18	0.18	0.24
31.	Lakshadweep	*	*	0.01
32.	Pondicherry	0.05	0.05	0.08
33.	Jharkhand			0.06
34.	Chhattisgarh			0.03
35.	Uttaranchal			0.02
	TOTAL:	58.29	59.23	60.07

*Less than 500

Irradiation Technology

4508. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Irradiation Technology has been gainfully employed in various developed countries, to protect the harvest against pests, moth, moisture, fungi, rats and rodents during storage, to enhance the shelf life of the harvested produce;

(b) if so, whether Government have any scheme to set up a network of Irradiation Centres on these lines, throughout the country, to prevent wastage of foodgrains and other harvest during storage; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in pursuance thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: (a) Yes, Sir.